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by our railways," and that "such resumption is obstructed by defects in the system of governmental regulation." The resolutions were based on a request by more than fifty ship-owners, including some of the largest consumers of railroad service in the country, who pointed out, with a great deal of emphasis, the necessity of revising the policy and mechanism of Government regulation in order to "restore the energy and initiative of the transportation companies of the country."

Were it not for the rule of public action which has just been authorized, it might be supposed that the petition of the National Association of Manufacturers would carry great weight with the Congressional lawmakers. In the light of the key which has been supplied to the curious determinations of governmental policy, it must be assumed, however, that the manufacturers will have no standing in the halls of Congress.

They are not disinterested persons. On the contrary, they have a very sordid interest in the promotion of profitable enterprise, to which the railways may contribute. Even although as shippers they make requests for changes in the direction of Government regulation which may compel them as shippers to pay higher freight rates, their interested motives are all too clear. They are willing to be more heavily charged on their shipments because the railroads would thereby increase their earnings and so be better able to make improvements facilitating and conducing to a business expansion which would tend to enhance the profits of manufacturers and merchants of trade and industry generally.

No, the National Association of Manufacturers cannot pretend disinterestedness in the matter of proper regulation of the railways. The only disinterested individuals in this relation are politicians whose hold on office consists in their prowess in the invention of new oppressions and restrictions of railroad managements popularly but mistakenly supposed to confer advantages on the patrons of the carriers.

Financial Gleams of European Peace.

It could be wished that some other observer than the *Economist* of London, one of the world's best known financial weeklies, reported the detection of peace glints in the recent utterances of the German Imperial Chancellor and the British Prime Minister. Its editor, Mr. FRANCIS W. HIRST, has had an attitude toward the war that must qualify materially his views of its prospects for an early termination.

According to London despatches the *Economist* makes an argument for early peace on grounds to which no exception can be taken. Every aspect of the terrific financial strain of the war urges an effort of European statesmanship to contrive a settlement which otherwise depends on the ordeal of protracted battle. Possibly Mr. HIRST is therefore right in reading in the speeches of Von BETHMANN-HOLLEWEG and the prompt rejoinder by Mr. ASQUITH an inauguration of diplomatic approaches to peace negotiations, but in his case the wish is peculiarly likely to be father to the thought.

Ardent hopefulness is a requisite to the discovery of an incipient meeting of minds in the Von Bethmann-Holleweg and Asquith utterances. The German Chancellor represented the demand of the Allies, personified by Great Britain, to be the destruction of Germany's military power, to which he said the answer could only be more war. Mr. ASQUITH's reply was that this was a misrepresentation; that the Allies were fighting to assure a European future in which international relations would be free from "the overmastering dictation of a Government controlled by a military caste." Perhaps Mr. HIRST thinks that the feudal caste of Prussian warrior nobility, which still seems to control the German Government, will eliminate itself, but he may be thinking in the direction of his prejudices.

Less than a year before the outbreak of the war a book of Mr. HIRST's essays was published bearing the title of "The Six Panics and Other Papers." The author proved himself to be an enthusiastic supporter of that anti-preparedness propaganda of which the success in the United Kingdom was one of the fundamental temptations offered to the German military caste to bring on war.

Discouraging like our own pacifists, Mr. HIRST proved by his own satisfaction and doubtless to the satisfaction of the complacent British public that no less than six famous war sears in England had been owing to the machinations of what our BYRAN calls "the preparers of preparedness." Lord ROBERTS saw clearly what was coming, but all that Mr. HIRST and others like him could see was the particular folly of suspecting Germany of any felonious intention toward the peace of Europe against which it was incumbent on Great Britain to guard.

Yet, while the latest British source of peace suggestions cannot command so much respectful attention as could be desired, it is probable that the approach of peace in Europe will be first heralded by financial signs and discerned by the community of finance, which is no longer national but international. Years before those fateful July and August days in 1914 the shadow of coming events was cast over the financial markets. It is of extraordinary interest to note how as far back as 1900 the record of the advancing imminence of the great

European conflict was written with increasing clearness in the financial chronicle. Presumably there were here and there men who saw and credited the facts in all their significance, but for the most part the world refused to believe the evidence of its eyes. The delusion prevailed that the prophets of the impossibility of war were right despite the accumulating proof of financial circumstances that they were wrong.

The delusion to be overcome now is that Europe has accepted war as the more or less permanent condition of existence. When financial portents of peace appear they will be worth trusting.

Senator Tillman Formulates a Platform.

We welcome the return of Senator BENJAMIN R. TILLMAN to his old form in a good cause. On Saturday he spoke his opinion of the river and harbor bill with a vigor and directness refreshing and effective. He exposed it without mercy:

"I do not want my share of the stealing in this river and harbor bill. It is criminal to discuss it at all. 'Think of it! Forty million dollars to be wasted and taxes to be increased. 'That forty millions would build two battle cruisers. No one knows how many submarines it would build.'"

And the South Carolina Senator is in favor of appropriating every cent that is needed to provide the battle cruisers and the submarines:

"The one essential and all important expenditure confronting us, the one to which we should bend all the nation's energies, is an adequate navy. By that I mean a navy second to none except England's, both in number of ships and in armament. I want us to have the very best types of ships and armament possible to obtain."

"Not as many ships nor as powerful a navy as that of Great Britain, but equaling it in individual units, and if possible surpassing it in every essential of modern warfare. This will cost hundreds of millions of dollars; but, no matter what it costs, we ought to have it—we must have it—and we ought to get about obtaining it in a hurry, for it takes time to build battleships and battle cruisers."

Senator TILLMAN will vote against the steel, and for an army and a navy strong enough to defend the United States and protect its interests. A good platform, well stated; may his fellow partisans have the sense to follow his lead!

When Judge Wescott Goes to St. Louis.

The single term commitment of the Baltimore platform of 1912 having hung fire, the work of the Democratic national convention of 1916 in producing a Presidential nomination was reduced to a delightfully simple matter of giving three cheers and a certificate of indorsement to the gentleman from New Jersey and the South whom the Republican rebels had shoved into the Chief Magistracy. But what orator should present the predestinated man?

The Hon. JOHN W. WESCOTT, a Democrat of the older fashion, but young enough in his sixty-eighth year to keep pace with the best of them, had placed Mr. WILSON's name before the 1912 convention in a speech that has not been forgotten either by those who admired it or by those who made fun of it; and Judge Wescott felt that he should have opportunity to "repent." But the Judge is a modest man, and left to others the pressing of his claim.

Governor FIELDER, perhaps with less reason than Judge Wescott has for similar oratorical self-esteem, hunkered after the honor. He learned from the State chairman that Squire TILLEY had informed him, Mr. GROSSCUP, that there was no Presidential preference to consider; Mr. WILSON desired the choice of a speaker left to the New Jersey delegates, and so the Governor began to groom himself for the platform.

Hard feelings commenced to develop, not on the part of the principals, but among their friends, players of State politics. Mr. WILSON wrote to Mr. FIELDER saying that he wanted Wescott, "not in preference to yourself, but as a long standing choice from which my thought has never turned." The Governor magnanimously withdrew. Judge Wescott will do the talking.

The Attorney-General of New Jersey emerges with the honor due to a man of modesty; the Governor with the credit that goes to men who sacrifice their own interests for those of a "cause." President Wilson does not come off so unquestionably well. Between the lines of Governor FIELDER's perfectly polite note to him it is plainly to be read that the Wilsonian blending of yea and nay had permitted a confusion that the head of the party should have prevented. This was not a small matter, either, for it quite needlessly produced a misleading appearance of discord in the New Jersey delegation.

It was the modesty and too ready amenability of JOHN W. WESCOTT that caused him to retire from the Senatorial primary that gave Gentleman (Farmer) JIM MARTINE his chance to sing Jersey poems in the upper house of the national legislature. Wescott has formally announced his candidacy for the next term, and the speech he will make at St. Louis will give it an impetus that may settle the Plainfielder's hush and give the Republican candidate a hard run. It will not be a dull speech.

Mr. W. D. HOWE asks us to say that he read with entire delight the statement in THE SUN of May 19 that "Messrs. Harper and Brothers had requested him not to take part in the

movement" to form an authors' labor union and "that he had decided to refrain." Mr. HOWE informs THE SUN that he is "quite confident that nothing of this kind happened, not only because he has no recollection of it, but also because in his long association, now of some thirty years duration, with Messrs. Harper and Brothers as a salaried contributor to their periodicals no member or agent of that honored and honorable house ever by word or act intimated the slightest wish to control his actions or opinions in economics or aesthetics, though he was aware that at many times they entirely differed with him."

Stamped for T. R. GEORGE ABE'S view. —Newspaper headline.

The college man in politics isn't in it with the professional humorist in politics.

The pacifist who told the crowd in Madison Square that Canada was politically as well off as the United States and therefore the Revolution was an unnecessary war is as poor a student of history as he is a republican. The British imperial policy was modified in many important details because of the lessons taught by the American rebellion.

There should be a uniform, invisible, but none the less one that we can put on for our country.—State School Commissioner FINLEY.

To wear while fighting perfectly visible enemies with our invisible armaments?

There will be no State censorship of motion pictures other than that provided in the statutes now on the books, the Governor having vetoed the Christian-Wheeler bill after carefully studying its provisions. The proposed regulation is not needed. The "movies" are not so decadent that the legitimate stage, and so long as they are clean the authorities should leave them alone.

In the balloting for members of the Columbia student board the electors voted in a lively row that some of the servers described as a riot. Ex-Sheriff FOLEY, whose district is invaded annually by college students anxious to "preserve order at the polls," should contribute a few watchers to keep the academic election straight.

The prediction that Mr. FORD may take an active part in the campaign for reelection of the President is not an unkind blessing to anxious Democrats. Sometimes even a war chest may cost more than it's worth.

The difficulty of a strike among unionized authors would be not so much the readiness of scab writers to jump into the vacated places as the inability of strike leaders to keep their forces away from the ink pot or the keyboard or the typing machine. It would be easier to check Venustus in full eruption than to suppress those hundreds of thousands of ceaselessly spouting geysers.

The Friends of Irish Freedom.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The utterance of certain orators, amateur and professional, at recent meetings of the Friends of Irish Freedom in London, New York and elsewhere has led me to think that if free Ireland could be obtained by a single stroke of a pen, it would be a great boon to the world. I am, however, a realist, and I am not at all sure that it is so simple a matter as it is made out to be. I am, however, a realist, and I am not at all sure that it is so simple a matter as it is made out to be.

Well, there is Jeremiah Lynch, for example.

Who Eats Meat?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: With wholesale prices of cattle at 14½ cents, and sheep at 17 cents, and hogs at 12 cents, food 21½ cents, cut meats at retail are beyond the reach of ordinary folks. A HEADLINE.

Is the Dog Muzzling Ordinance a Dead Letter?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: There were 7,149 unmuzzled dogs at large in this city last week according to a count made by the police of the Health Department. Is the dog muzzling act a dead letter? Last year 2,648 persons were bitten by dogs in this city.

A Booted Misourian.

From the *Sedalia Capital*.

Former Governor Alexander M. Dockery has been a sore sore in the heart of the State for some time. He was a member of the Missouri House of Representatives for many years, and was a member of the Missouri Senate for many years. He was a member of the Missouri House of Representatives for many years, and was a member of the Missouri Senate for many years. He was a member of the Missouri House of Representatives for many years, and was a member of the Missouri Senate for many years.

To Sergeant Chelton.

Sergeant, greatly I'm distressed To have read some observations That you made in your column, When you were discussing rats. By your fight the day before, "Tim damn him," you said; no more. And the crowding of all, Is that you should fail to land things— To arise and meet the call? When the chance came to expand things, Four words, sergeant, merely four, Instead of several columns more.

Two Kinds of Help.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In view of the extreme difficulty at present of securing competent domestic help, would it not be a good idea to send some of the Belgian and Polish objects of our charity over here to ease the situation for us as well as for them?

Religious Statistics of Japan.

From the *East and West News*.

According to statistics furnished by a Tokyo newspaper, there are 15,000,000 Shintoists, 20,000,000 Buddhists and 10,000,000 Christians in Japan, which leaves some 20,000,000 with no profession of faith or otherwise. The Shintoists are the largest body of idolaters in the world. The Buddhists are the largest body of idolaters in the world. The Christians are the largest body of idolaters in the world.

Aeroplane's Flight in Kansas.

From the *Chautauque Tribune*.

A chautauque man who was caught by a deputy game warden while he was poaching in his possession explained that he had just seen their first aeroplane and had died of a broken heart.

THE FLAG IN THE PIT.

An Incident in the Crowded Career of the Old Bovey Theatre.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The events of the day are stirring indeed. I am sure that you will find it interesting to read of the old Bovey Theatre in these United States of America. The question brings to mind an anecdote which I have heard of the old Bovey Theatre in these United States of America. The question brings to mind an anecdote which I have heard of the old Bovey Theatre in these United States of America.

It happened in the old Bovey Theatre and the performer who took the leading part and was in fact the hero of the evening was an occupant of the Pit (with a capital "P," Mr. Typewriter, if you please, for it was a capital part of the house and should be treated capably, let me tell you) and a great old Pit, with its backless, unpainted benches; indeed, a place of places, and many an actor of the old days would have been glad to sit there by those who sat there. You entered by the present south doorway. It is there to-day, and there was painted on the wall, but I have not seen it, placing it over the entrance: "All hope abandon, ye who enter here." There should have been painted over the words, "The Bovey Theatre is a place of places, and many an actor of the old days would have been glad to sit there by those who sat there. You entered by the present south doorway. 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